

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 13, 2019

The Honorable Richard Shelby
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nita Lowey
Chairwoman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kay Granger
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shelby, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairwoman Lowey, and Ranking Member Granger,

As you consider a final appropriations package for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020, we respectfully urge you to include an authorization extension for the National Aviation Heritage Area. To date, federal funding for the National Aviation Heritage Area is scheduled to sunset on December 8, 2019. As passed in the House's FY2020 Interior Appropriations bill, we urge any final appropriations package to include language extending the authorization of the National Aviation Heritage Area to September 30, 2022.

The National Aviation Heritage Area, established under P.L. 108-447, spans eight counties around Dayton, Ohio and is a destination for aeronautics tourism and a landmark for America's aviation heritage. The heritage area includes the contributions of Paul Laurence Dunbar, nationally recognized as one of the first African-American poets, and the Wright Brothers, two American aviators credited with inventing, building, and flying the world's first successful airplane. Contained within the heritage area is also one of Ohio's historic national parks, Dayton Aviation Heritage National Park, as well as two cultural landscape sites - Huffman Prairie Flying Field and Grimes Flying Field. Furthermore, the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base is located in the National Aviation Heritage Area region and is home to developments in future aerospace technology.

The National Aviation Heritage Area has over 2 million visitors per year, generating \$35 million dollars in economic impact and supporting 1,500 jobs in the area. Additionally, the National Aviation Heritage Alliance, the management entity of the National Aviation Heritage Area, has consistently exceeded the overall 50 percent match requirement.

We therefore urge you to include a reauthorization of the National Aviation Heritage Area in a final appropriations package so that it can continue to be a successful public-private partnership

that preserves America's aviation heritage and enriches local communities through economic development and education.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rob Portman".

Rob Portman
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sherrod Brown".

Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael R. Turner".

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joyce Beatty".

Joyce Beatty
Member of Congress